

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03 RSR-01

/140 W

----- 071177

R 292209 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1093

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OTTAWA 1247

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MARR, VN, PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ICCS

1. SUMMARY. IN PARLIAMENT MAY 29 EXTAFF MIN SHARP ANNOUNCED THAT CANADA WILL WITHDRAW FROM ICCS BY JULY 31, 1973 AT LATEST. SHARP SAID GOC WILL LEAVE SOONER IF REPLACEMENT CAN BE FOUND AND CAN BE IN PLACE AT EARLIER DATE. SHARP ALSO SAID GOC WOULD BE WILLING TO RETURN TO VIETNAM ( PROVIDED NO REPLACEMENT FOR GOC HAD BEEN FOUND) TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS CLEARLY HELD UNDER PARIS AGREEMENT. ALL OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMEN SUPPORTED GOC ANNOUNCEMENT. SHARP ALSO TABLED WHITE PAPER ENTITLED " CANADA' S APPROACH TO PARTICIPATION IN THE ICCS" ( COPY BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT). END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT EXTAFF MIN SHARP' S STATEMENT.  
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BEGIN TEXT: SPEAKING IN THE HOUSE ON MARCH 27 I SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO EXTEND CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ICCS UNTIL MAY 31 AND THAT BEFORE THAT DATE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO REMAIN OR TO WITHDRAW.

AT THAT TIME I SAID THAT WE WOULD WITHDRAW OUR CONTINGENT BY JUNE 30 UNLESS THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION OR SOME SIGNS OF AN IMMINENT POLITICAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES.

THE DECISION IS A SERIOUS ONE AND THE GOVERNMENT SO REGARDS IT. CANADA HAS A REPUTATION, I BELIEVE, FOR RESPONSIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. WE HAVE SERVED IN MORE PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE OBSERVER ROLES THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY AND WE REMAIN READY TO SERVE WHEREVER WE CAN BE EFFECTIVE. WE HAVE ALSO IN THE COURSE OF THIS VARIED AND EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING 19 YEARS IN INDOCHINA, LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT THE CONDITIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS IN PEACEKEEPING AND PEACE OBSERVER ACTIVITIES.

THE HOUSE WILL RECALL THE EFFORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MADE TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD HELP TO IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIET- NAM. I SHALL NOT REPEAT THEM NOW. THE RECORD OF CANADA'S APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ICCS UP TO THE END OF MARCH 1973 IS TO BE FOUND IN A WHITE PAPER THAT I SHALL TABLE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS STATEMENT.

STATED BRIEFLY, WHAT WE SOUGHT TO ENSURE WAS THAT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION WOULD BE AN IMPARTIAL, FACT- FINDING BODY, SUPPORTED BY THE PARTIES TO THE PEACE AGREEMENT, WITH SUFFICIENT FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO ENABLE IT TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS ABOUT ANY ALLEGED BREACH OF THE AGREEMENT AND REPORTING QUICKLY NOT ONLY TO THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT BUT ALSO TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. WHILE WE DID NOT ACHIEVE ALL OUR PURPOSES, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT WE HELPED TO EFFECT SOME IMPROVEMENTS, AT LEAST IN FORM.

WHAT WE COULD NOT ENSURE, AND WHAT THE ICCS COULD NOT ENSURE WAS PEACE IN VIET- NAM. THAT DEPENDS ON THE PARTIES TO THE PEACE AGREEMENT AND NOT ON THE ICCS. NOR CAN CANADA ALONE ENSURE THAT THE ICCS FULFILLS ITS FUNCTION OF PEACE OBSERVING AND REPORTING AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, THAT THE CANADIAN CONCEPT OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED IF WE WERE NOW TO WITHDRAW. NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN VIET- NAM. THAT DEPENDS UPON THE PARTIES TO THE PEACE AGREEMENT AND NOT UPON THE ICCS. IT IS ONLY IF THE PARTIES ARE COOPERATING IN A STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE AGREEMENT AND ARE WILLING TO USE THE ICCS AS A MEANS OF REINFORCING THE AGREEMENT THAT THE COMMISSION CAN PERFORM ITS FUNCTION WITH ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS.

THROUGHOUT OUR TENURE ON THE ICCS WE HAVE SOUGHT ABOVE ALL ELSE TO BE OBJECTIVE. WE HAVE REPRESENTED NONE OF THE CONTENDING PARTIES. WE HAVE BEEN AS INSISTENT IN CALLING FOR AND PARTICIPATING IN INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM AS WE HAVE WITH REGARD TO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS BY

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THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM AND THE OTHER SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTY. IF THE RVN OR USA HAVE BEEN AT FAULT WE HAVE SAID SO. IF THE OTHER PARTIES WERE TO BLAME FOR CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS WE ALSO HAVE SAID SO. I ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT WE HAVE NO NEED TO LISTEN MUTELY NOW OR LATER TO ANY CHARGES THAT WE HAVE ACTED PARTIALLY; WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR OBJECTIVITY IN THE COMMISSION AND OF OUR ATTEMPTS TO SEE THIS IMPARTIALITY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.

I ALSO SAID IN MY STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE ON MARCH 27, THAT CANADA WOULD BE PREPARED TO RETURN TO VIET- NAM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION OF AN ELECTION CLEARLY HELD UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THEREFORE WITH THE CONCURRENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES. IT WENT WITHOUT SAYING THAT OUR PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY IF A REPLACEMENT WERE FOUND FOR CANADA ON THE ICCS. I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT THERE IS MUCH CHANCE THAT AN ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT, BUT IF IT SHOULD, ( AND WE WOULD WANT TO EXAMINE IT CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE IT WAS THIS KIND OF ELECTION), AND IF NO REPLACEMENT HAD BEEN FOUND FOR CANADA, WE WOULD CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY A REQUEST TO RETURN TEMPORARILY TO THE ICCS FOR THIS PURPOSE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEN PREVAILING AND OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CHANCES FOR EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION.

THE PEACE AGREEMENT ITSELF ANTICIPATES THE REPLACEMENT OF THE NAMES MEMBERS OF THE ICCS - CANADA, HUNGARY, INDONESIA AND POLAND - OR ANY OF THEM. I HAVE ALSO SAID THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REMAIN ON THE COMMISSION UNTIL JUNE 30 SO THAT A REPLACEMENT COULD BE FOUND. WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND MR. LE DUC THO WILL BE RESUMED IN JUNE. WE WANT TO GIVE THOSE DISCUSSIONS EVERY CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND WE WOULD CERTAINLY WISH TO DO NOTHING THAT WOULD COMPLICATE THEM BY INTRODUCING WHAT MIGHT SEEM TO BE TOO SHORT A DEADLINE FOR AGREEING ON A REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA ON THE COMMISSION.

IN RECOGNITION OF THAT POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY, WE ARE PREPARED IF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT SO WISH, TO STAY FOR A PERIOD BEYOND JUNE 30 BUT NOT LATER THAN JULY 31.

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CANADA'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW IS FIRM AND DEFINITE, BUT THE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY SHOULD GIVE THE PARTIES ADEQUATE TIME TO FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR THE CANADIAN DELEGATION. SHOULD A SUCCESSOR BE NAMED AND BE READY TO TAKE ITS PLACE BEFORE JULY 31, WE WOULD OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO HAND OVER OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AT ANY MUTUALLY CONVENIENT EARLIER TIME. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING DURING THE REMAINING PERIOD OF OUR STAY ON THE COMMISSION.

IN CONCLUSION, I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR GAUVIN, MAJOR- GENERAL MACALPINE AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION NOW IN VIET- NAM AND TO THEIR PREDECESSORS GOING BACK TO 1954. NOTWITHSTANDING GREAT FRUSTRATION AND SERIOUS RISKS THEY HAVE CARRIED HIGH THE FLAG OF CANADA; FOR SOME IT HAS COST THEM THEIR LIFE. THOSE WHO NOW WILL BE RETURNING TO CANADA CAN HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT THEY DID ALL IN THEIR

POWER TO HELP IN BRINGING PEACE TO THE WAR- WEARY PEOPLE  
OF VIET- NAM. IT WAS OUR DELEGATION THAT CARRIED THE MAIN  
BURDEN OF ORGANIZING THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND  
WHATEVER SUCCESS THE COMMISSION HAS HAD CAN, IN A LARGE  
MEASURE, BE ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE,  
DEDICATION AND ENERGY.  
SCHMIDT

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**To:** BUDAPEST  
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